# Building a Resume



# Résumé Tips

"An eye-catching résumé that stands out above all others may be your best shot at getting noticed by a prospective employer...If a résumé is mediocre or conspicuously flawed, it will work against you and may undo all the good efforts in searching for a job."

—David F. Noble

### Objective

- Show your interest or even enthusiasm.
- Be realistic.
- Make sure your objective fits the employer you are giving this version of the resume to. (Yes, you may tailor your résumé to fit each specific job.)

## **Experience**

- Include significant volunteer commitments as well as jobs.
- Where have you proved your ability to accomplish something significant?
- Keep it simple. If you were a babysitter, say so. Don't make up a fancy title.

#### Skills

- Have you led a team, organized an event, or built something? What skills did you need to accomplish it?
- Be sure to include any "hard" skills including using computers or equipment.

#### **Activities**

- Where have you had a chance to shine?
- Have you won competitions or recognition?

#### Interests

• What do you do that challenges you to learn or to grow as a person?

#### **Education**

- Identify your high school Small Learning Community or other interest area as well as school.
- List special achievements or academic accomplishments.

#### References

• These should be professionals who know you well enough to speak well of you.

#### **Double Check**

- \_\_ Spelling
- \_\_ All phone numbers and addresses are correct and current.

# Résumé Power Words

Action words are the key to making your accomplishments sound impressive. If you're like many students, you're worried that you haven't done anything that will get you the job. But you've probably done more than you think you have. Using words like these to describe what you've done at work or in other activities can help highlight your experiences.

# Positive words for any résumé:

Able	Adaptable	Ambitious	Analytical	Articulate
Bright	Creative	Capable	Competent	Confident
Consistent	Dedicated	Dependable	Dynamic	Efficient
Experienced	Flexible	Friendly	Hardworking	Honest
Imaginative	Independent	Motivated	People-oriented	Professional
Reliable	Responsible	Successful	•	

# If you've started something:

Created Founded	Designed Generated	Developed Implemented	Devised Initiated	Established Organized		
If you've led something:						
Administered Conducted Enlisted Instructed Planned Resolved Solved	Approved Controlled Ensured Managed Prepared Reviewed Structured	Assessed Coordinated Evaluated Monitored Prioritized Scheduled Supervised	Assigned Directed Facilitated Motivated Recruited Screened Taught	Coached Enabled Guided Orchestrated Researched Selected Trained		

## If you've done something:

Achieved	Acted	Advised	Allocated	Analyzed
Attained	Balanced	Calculated	Clarified	Classified
Compiled	Completed	Composed	Consolidated	Collaborated
Contributed	Decreased	Demonstrated	Diagnosed	Documented
Drafted	Edited	Engineered	Enhanced	Expanded
Expedited	Finalized	Forecasted	Identified	Improved
Increased	Integrated	Interpreted	Investigated	Maintained
Maximized	Negotiated	Obtained	Performed	Presented
Produced	Promoted	Provided	Quantified	Reconciled
Reduced	Reorganized	Participated	Revised	Represented
Simplified	Specified	Stimulated	Streamlined	Strengthened

# **Your Name**

**Objective** 

What do you want to do?

**Work Experience** 

Company Name

Street Number and Name City, State and Zip Code

Job Title

• Duties or Achievements **Duties or Achievements** 

Accomplishments List one or more things that you have done or a special skill you may have.

Activities

List activities in which you have participated such as scouting, sports teams,

church groups, etc.

Interests

List hobbies, special interests, travel, etc.

Education

Name of High School Street Number and Name City, State and Zip Code

Dates attended: From Date - Present

Name of Middle School Street Number and Name City, State and Zip Code

Dates attended: From Date - Present

Name of Elementary School Street Number and Name City, State and Zip Code

Dates attended: From Date - Present

References

Name

Street Number and Name City, State and Zip Code

Phone Number

Name

Street Number and Name City, State and Zip Code

Phone Number

# Michael K. Boots

**Objective** 

To obtain a summer position with Saint Paul Parks & Recreation

Work Experience

Mow Time Lawn Cutters 1234 Turf Ave. Suite B Saint Paul, MN 55101

Landscaper

Mowed lawns

Landscaped properties

**Babysitter** 

Various locations Saint Paul, MN

Responsible for the care of several youth

Prepared meals & scheduled activities for youth

Skills:

First Aid Skills

Computer Skills: Adobe Photoshop, Microsoft Word and Excel

Foreign Language Skills: Fluent in French and Swahili

Activities

Cross Country Team

Boys & Girls Club Volunteer Youth Mentor

Interests

Bird watching, disco dancing, cooking, Scrabble

Education

Central High School

275 Lexington Parkway N. Saint Paul, MN 55105

Dates attended: Fall 2005 - Present Expected Graduation: June 2007

References

Matthew Cutter, Owner Mow Time Lawn Cutters 1234 Turf Ave. Suite B Saint Paul, MN 55101 (651) 555-0251

Amanda Huginkiss 987 Babysitter Court Saint Paul, MN 55102 (651) 555-9998